

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
in Joint Meeting with
WEST TISBURY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLANNING COMMITTEE
5:30PM, Monday, March 13, 2023
West Tisbury School
and by Zoom Cloud Conference**

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Present: Chair – Jim Newman, Alex Salop, Roxanne Ackerman*, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter,
WTCIP Chair – Kathy Logue, Matt Merry, Bruce Stone, Joe Tierney,
Others: CHA Projects – Mike Owen, Christina Opper,
Recorder: Marni Lipke
Supt's Shared Services Office: Richie Smith, Mark Friedman,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,
West Tisbury – Energy - Kate Warner,
Press – Shavanáe Anderson – MVTV, Eunki Seonwoo – MV Times,
*Late arrivals or early departures of UIRSC members

Call to Order (Agenda Item #I)

The Up-Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) meeting was called to order.
The West Tisbury Capital Improvements Planning Committee (WTCIPC) was called to order.
(Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

**Review/Approval of the Minuted of the January 30, 2023 Meeting of the West
Tisbury Capital Improvements Planning Committee** (Agenda Item #II)

MATT MERRY MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 30, 2023 MINUTES AS WRITTEN; JOE TIERNEY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: BRUCE STONE—AYE, MATT MERRY—AYE, JOE TIERNEY—AYE, KATHY LOGUE—AYE.

West Tisbury School (WTS) Facility Long Term Planning (Agenda Item #III)

(See Minutes: 12/7/22 p.3 #VI, & 12/19/22 p.5 #VI B, & 1/17/23 p.4-5 #VI B, & 1/23/23 p.4 #III.) * During this discussion Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 5:42PM.

- The WTCIPC relied on the Town Department experts to submit future capital needs; it was the Committee's role to fit these needs into the Town debt schedule. This meant the following issues drove the WTCIPC rating of this project.
 - The Committee was glad the school was engaged in long-term planning.
 - Town debt currently paid ~ \$1,000,000/year—projected debt retirement - 2029-30.
 - Other more urgent projects that had been on the Capital Improvement Plan longer were:
 - 14% WT share of the upcoming Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) project, likely to at least double current payments within the next 3-5 years;
 - Howes House renovation,
 - polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) remediation, and
 - WT Library heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) problems.

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- The 80% Town share of the \$35,000,000 WTS environmental estimate alone was an additional \$2,000,000 in payments.
- WTS maintenance and recent remediation (windows, systems, doors, exterior shingling, roofs, etc.) still had useful life.
- The WTCIPC encouraged applications to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for expertise as well as funding. However, this was a lengthy process that required its own feasibility process.
- There were previous comparable enrollment spikes matching current 400 students projections.
- Consequently the Committee wished to endorse the project but preferred a one-two year delay that would better fit the Town debt obligation schedule.
- The UIRSC and Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Business Administrator Mark Friedman suggested the UIRSC and the WTCIPC positions were not far apart.
- The comprehensive environmental upgrade (\$27-35,000,000) and required move to a temporary school during construction, suggested educational needs be coordinated with the project.
- Enrollment was nearing the point where some grades would require 3 classrooms.
- A space needs study was a precursor to a feasibility study and had proved useful to MSBA planning for the MVRHS project. The MVRHS space needs study was conducted at about the same time interval in the long process as this WTS proposal.
- Currently, MSBA awards covered most applications on a 7-9 year cycle.
- Therefore it was likely that actual construction would not start until 2029-30 when some WT debt was retired and the WTS might be high on the MSBA timeline.
- Consultants did not advise piecemeal work both for financial and for system overlapping/coordination reasons.
- There was some hesitation expressed by members over the current timing and proposal.
 - An All Island School Committee (AISC) conversation on MVPS population projections was requested.
 - Superintendent Richie Smith noted that the addition of the educational component tended to blunt the momentum of the environmental project.
- WT Energy Committee and Environmental School Building Task Force (ESBTF) Chair Kate Warner suggested there were alternate solutions.
- Classroom modifications were 1/3 of the environmental upgrade budget so it might be feasible to start work (e.g. insulation, ventilation, heat pumps...) on the WTS middle school wing which was likely to have stable needs—and which might be designated as the emergency shelter, making it eligible for Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) funds.
- Although HVAC/energy technology was constantly evolving and the heating system could not be changed until final building size was determined, other components such as building envelope insulation were established enough to be started without fear of being outdated.
- This kind of incremental approach might also eliminate or reduce the need for expensive temporary/modular school facilities.

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- Climate change high temperatures might make the current lack of air conditioning a serious problem for staff and students.
- Other issues included:
 - current inflationary HVAC costs, e.g. the Chilmark School HVAC bid,
 - summer construction, the most challenging time for contractors to mobilize, vs. the high cost of temporary/modular schools;
 - WTS energy supplied by the Town solar array.
 - Many school districts were facing greening issues—hopefully forcing increased grant opportunities: MSBA, FEMA, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Governor Maura Healey's budget, etc.
- The UIRSC agreed to keep the WTCIPC informed if the issue was on future UIRSC agendas.
- *MATT MERRY MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:31PM; BRUCE STONE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: BRUCE STONE—AYE, JOE TIERNEY—AYE, MATT MERRY, KATHY LOGUE—AYE.*

Chilmark School Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) (Agenda IV)

(See documents on file & Minutes: 3/2/21 p.2 #IV, & 5/4/21 Minutes p.1-2 #V B, & 8/26/21 p.3 #V A, & 9/20/21 p.3-4 #IV C, & 10/25/21 p.1 #II, & 5/23/22 p.3 #D, & 6/21/22 p.2-3 #IV C, & 1/17/23 p.2-3 #IV B, & 3/9/23.)

- The bid process, results and budgeting components were reviewed (see 3/9/23 Minutes).
- The Chilmark Select Board (CSB) and Finance Committee (FinCom) asked the UIRSD to contribute funds to support the project.

The UIRSC explored:

- A small generator for the well pump would still require expensive electrical and site modifications, i.e. generator work could not be subdivided. There was no MVPS policy on power outages but Administration usually kept at least one school open. Chilmark was the only MVPS without a backup generator.
- The Town was committed to another home for the Chilmark Preschool so the School building could accommodate the current and (fairly reliable) projected enrollment of ~ 70 students.
- The project cost had increased exponentially in the last 5 years, so delays were likely to prove even more costly.
- If the heat went out building systems such as plumbing would be unprotected. The old heating system would be retained as a backup.
- The UIRSC expressed concern about the transparency of amending Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) without Town Meeting votes.
- Since West Tisbury and Aquinnah only had to pay 10% over the life of the loan, the UIRSC acknowledged the outrageous price, and agreed that the decision should be left to Chilmark.
- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE GENERATOR BE INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT BUT THAT THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE WOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER THE TOWN OF CHILMARK DECIDES; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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- This project (started in 2015) was a series of difficult lessons for the UIRSC (however well-intentioned), highlighting the need for a driving task force of field, political and protocol experts.

Excess and Deficiency (E & D) – Discussion and Possible Vote (Agenda Item #V) (See documents on file.)

The current E & D balance (pending UIRSD Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Budget commitments) was ~ \$315,000.

- Skipper Manter voiced his usual objections about West Tisbury vs. Chilmark share of E & D. Others were more interested in the best use of the funds, regardless of origin.

- The current IMA was locked in at a reasonable interest rate over a series of years and an amendment request had already been submitted.

- The 3 UIRSC Towns had 45 days to consider whether to put the use of E & D funds to a Town vote. The bid price was held for 90 days.

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO USE EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY FUNDS AS FOLLOWS:*

- *\$194,600 TO COVER THE WEST TISBURY SCHOOL HEATING/VENTILATION/AIR CONDITIONING AND ELECTRICAL UPGRADE; AND*

- *\$120,400 TO OFFSET THE CHILMARK SCHOOL HEATING/VENTILATION/AIR CONDITIONING PROJECT;*

ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Meetings/Events

• AISC – 6:30PM, March 15, 2023 – MVRHS/Zoom

• UIRSC – 5:30PM, Monday, March 20, 2023 – WTS/Zoom

Adjournment

• *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:05PM; JIM NEWMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Minutes taken and submitted by Marni Lipke for UIRSD.

Documents on File:

• Agenda 3/13/23

• Friedman cover email re: Chilmark HVAC Bid & Budget 3/11/23

- Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services, memo re: UpIsland 2/17/2023

- UIRSD Chilmark School HVAC Project – Bid and Budget Information 3/8/23

- Chilmark School HVAC Replacement – Filed-Sub Contractor Bid Tabulation Sheet Bid Opening 03/01/2023 at 4:00PM (2 p.)

Capital Improvements Committee approved for their portion of meeting, September 18, 2023